



Attorney Docket No. 25403

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:

SANDOVAL

Serial No.: 10/658,740

Art Unit: 4137

Filed: September 10, 2003

Examiner: ALMATRAHI, F.

For: **MANAGING AND ACCOUNTING FOR SHIPPING STRUCTURES**

RESPONSE AND AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

This is in response to the Official Action dated October 31, 2007. The three-month shortened statutory period for response expires on January 31, 2008. Accordingly, this Response is timely filed within the time period set by the Examiner.

In view of the following amendments and remarks, applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to reconsider and withdraw the outstanding rejections and allow all claims pending in this application.

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend claim 1 as outlined in Appendix A, attached herewith.

Appendix A

Claim Amendments

1. (Currently amended) A method of administering [[the]] cyclic use and movement of one or more reusable shipping structures comprising:
 - a. a first party providing one or more empty reusable shipping structures to a second party at a first value x;
 - b. said second party placing materials on said one or more reusable shipping structures; and
 - c. a third party purchasing said one or more reusable shipping structures ~~with materials thereon~~ from said second party at a second value y, wherein the shipping structures have materials thereon;

wherein said second value y is less than said first value x.
2. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of said second party valuing said one or more reusable shipping structures with materials thereon at a second value y.
3. (Original) The method of claim 2, further comprising the step of said third party removing the materials from said one or more reusable shipping structures.

4. (Original) The method of claim 3, further comprising the step of said third party selling said one or more empty reusable shipping structures.
5. (Original) The method of claim 2, wherein a fourth party delivers said one or more reusable shipping structures with materials thereon from said second party to said third party.
6. (Original) The method of claim 5, wherein said fourth party is a transportation service carrier.
7. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said second party charges its internal operations a usage fee which is the difference between the first value x and the second value y, for each reusable shipping structure put in use.
8. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the first value x is about that of new or fully reconditioned reusable shipping structure.
9. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the second value y is about sixty percent of the first value x.
10. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said one or more reusable shipping structures are pallets.

11. (Original) The method of claim 10, wherein said pallets are wooden pallets.
12. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said first party is selected from the group consisting of a shipping structure supplier and a shipping structure recycler.
13. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said second party is a product manufacturer.
14. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said third party is a product distributor.
15. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising said first party reselling one or more empty reusable shipping structures to a second party.
16. (Original) The method of claim 4, wherein said third party sells said empty reusable shipping structure for an amount about equal to the second value y .
17. (Original) The method of claim 4, wherein said third party sells said one or more empty reusable shipping structure for an amount greater than the

second value y.

18. (Original) The method of claim 4, wherein said third party sells said one or more empty reusable shipping structure for an amount less than the second value y.